



OFFICE OF

No. HB 2608

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

April 26, 2023

TIME SIGNED: 2:09 pm

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 2608:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 2608.

Oklahoma law already requires sex offenders to register with the Department of Corrections and several local law enforcement authorities having jurisdiction in the area where the person resides or intends to reside, including the municipal police department and county sheriff, as well the police or security department of an institution of higher learning at which sex offenders are enrolled.

While the intent behind Enrolled House Bill 2608—that Indian sex offenders who register with a federally recognized Indian nation or tribe in Oklahoma *must* also register with all other local law enforcement authority enumerated in 57 O.S. § 583—is well meaning, the actual effect and assuredly unintended consequences are significant. The plain, amendatory language would have all sex offenders—Indian and non-Indian alike—additionally register, in person, with tribal law enforcement if the person resides or intends to reside or stay within “the jurisdictional boundaries of the federally recognized Indian nation or tribe[.]” The problems are at least two-fold. First, Oklahoma citizens should not be required to register with and/or effectively submit to the jurisdiction of law enforcement that has no jurisdiction over them. Second, given the continued uncertainty and disagreements associated with what is meant by “jurisdictional boundaries of the federally recognized Indian nation or tribe,” the amendatory language would create additional confusion and likely cause more unnecessary disagreements.

To be clear, I stand ready to engage in good faith discussions about any real need for additional sex offender registration requirements. Enrolled House Bill 2608 simply goes too far and creates ambiguities.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 2608

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Delivered to HOUSE: Sumner Burris

Date/Time: 4/26/23 6:15 pm

HOUSE:

By Christie A. Hatcher

Date/Time: 4/26/23 6:17 pm

RECEIVED

APR 26 2023

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

@ 8:56 PM